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laid for positive practical action. Shortly after the eventful week other conferences were held in New York and Chicago, with the view of promoting government loans and the investment of American capital in commercial enterprises in Central and South America.

Dr. L. S. Rowe, secretary general of the conference, assures us that in a number of other instances, the details of which he is not at liberty to divulge, "definite plans were laid which are certain to eventuate in important co-operative action in promoting the development of the great natural resources of Central and South America."

We are informed that it is the fixed determination of Secretary McAdoo to spare no effort in following up the work of the conference and in building up a permanent organization which will give effect to the deliberations and conclusions that were reached. Indeed, at the closing meeting, Saturday, May 29, he announced that it was his intention to appoint eighteen permanent committees in the United States, each committee assigned to one of the countries represented at the conference. It will be the duty of these committees to get information pertinent to the promotion of financial and commercial co-operation. Provision has also been made for the appointment of a joint high commission, composed of nine delegates in each of the countries represented at the conference, for the purpose of bringing about greater uniformity in legislation relating to trade and commerce, and also to secure the establishment of an international commercial tribunal.

Our feeling is that the Pan-American Financial Conference was a peace congress of a high order. Its aims, methods, organization, and results are full of suggestions for us who are keenly interested in promoting effective peace congresses.

Editorial Notes.

Sanitation of Battlefields.

In a recent letter from Paris reference is made to the report by M. J. Brissac, Director of Public Hygiene under the Department of the Interior, on the sanitation of battlefields. Attention is called to the importance of the removal of the dangers to health resulting from hasty burials of bodies of human beings and animals. It is shown that the burials of the bodies of soldiers, as well as the carcasses of horses and cattle, have in many cases been done under unsatisfactory conditions, due primarily to haste. It is shown that a large number of graves and burial mounds are too near dwelling places, sometimes in the midst of cultivated fields, and even in the ditches along the roads. In general, these graves are much too shallow, in many cases being only six or ten inches deep. When the burial has been made in clayey or marshy soils the corpse is not quickly decomposed, and the consequences tend to become serious. The writer says: "Not to speak of the persistent odors of putrefaction, it is inevitable that the graves scattered among cultivable lands will soon be profaned. What is most to be feared, however, is the contamination of un-

derground springs, fountains of potable water, and public or private wells."

Reminding us of the Hague Conference.

In the various programs recently put before the public for securing permanent world peace, little reference is made to the Third Hague Conference. It is not intended as a criticism of these programs when we ask: Is not the Third Hague Conference to be the hopeful place for the realizations of our real international program? Frank F. Williams, Esq., of Buffalo, suggests the wisdom of making use of all real progress toward world organization and international peace already at hand. He has submitted to THE ADVOCATE OF PEACE the declaration adopted at the annual meeting of the Buffalo Peace and Arbitration Society May 4. The declaration reads:

"In view of the colossal conflict now raging in Europe, we take the following position:

"1. That we should urge the maintenance of absolute neutrality on the part of the United States if possible.

"2. That the administration at Washington at the close of the war should make every effort possible towards securing permanent peace in whatever way may be most feasible.

"3. Remembering that the Second Hague Conference of 1907, in which 44 nations took part, laid the foundations for a Permanent Court to settle disputes between nations, adopted resolutions calling upon the nations to undertake the serious study of the question of the limitation of armaments, and provided that a Third Conference should be held in about eight years, that we now urge the United States to invite all civilized nations to prepare to attend such a Third Conference, to be held as soon as possible after the close of the European war.

"We urge the calling of this conference, believing that at such a gathering, held at a time when the awful lessons of the present war will be impressed on the minds of every one, a permanent International Court of Justice could be established which would make possible definite action for practical disarmament and perhaps the organization of a council or congress of the nations. Thus will be utilized the methods of procedure and the experience of the two previous conferences.

"4. During the progress of the war every possible effort should be made to create a powerful public opinion in favor of the establishment of an International Court, a council of the nations, and practical disarmament."

The Arithmetic of It.

The British national debt has been increased because of this war two and one-half billions; another war credit of nearly one and one-half billions has been voted. The national war debt of Great Britain has been more than doubled since last July. This is an unparalleled event in the history of finance. In terms of per capita cost the war is costing Great Britain ten times as much as did the Napoleonic war. We have the spectacle of this most powerful nation drawing upon its principal to meet the exigencies of war. By the end of the first year Great Britain, France, Russia, Germany, and Austria will have borrowed approximately fifteen billions. The financiers are wondering how long the belligerent nations will be able to convert a sufficient amount of wealth from the form in which it is into the form required.

Not Because of, Yes, nations have developed might-
But in ily, and men become strong under the
Spite of War. war system; but this is not to say be-
 cause of that system. Churches have sprung up in the
 war nations, but they have not been fostered by war.
 Schools are not nourished by disease, nor children by
 slums, even if schools do thrive by the side of hospitals
 and children grow to manhood in the ghettos of the
 world. War is a destroyer, an unmitigated curse, first,
 last, and always. Civilization has advanced to its pres-
 ent level not because of but in spite of war.

The Army League of the United States. The Army League of the United States, founded in 1912, is making a special plea for support. Its argument is that "The European war and recent events elsewhere remove all doubt as to the fact that our national honor and existence depend upon military preparedness. If we value our institutions and liberties we must prepare to defend them. * * * Under the direction of the Secretary of War the general staff and general officers of the army are preparing a plan for the formation and maintenance of adequate land forces for national defense. Believing that army officers who have made a life study of this question are the highest authority upon the subject, * * *," etc.

In all seriousness and kindness we would ask the officers of this league the following questions:

1. What specific policies near and important to the United States is your "military preparedness" designed to promote? The words "national honor and existence" do not, of course, adequately answer this question.
2. Do you consider that "national honor and existence" have been best defended and promoted by the "military preparedness" of Europe?
3. What nation or group of nations is threatening our "institutions and liberties"?
4. In what way does this nation or group of nations propose to attack our "institutions and liberties"?
5. Are you prepared to announce just what you conceive to be "adequate land forces for international defense"?
6. Do we understand that you are willing to leave the whole question of our foreign policies, which constitute the most important measure of any adequate defense, to the War Department?
7. Since we have spent two billions of dollars on our navy within thirty years, for what reason or reasons is it now thought to be inadequate?
8. Since our war bill for the last generation has been fifteen billions of dollars, is it not reasonable to suppose that our present means of defense ought to be somewhere near "adequate"?

Among the Peace Organizations.

The Buffalo Peace and Arbitration Society.

The work of the Buffalo Peace and Arbitration Society during the past eight months has been of absorbing interest. At the annual meeting, May 4, a review of the preceding year was given by the secretary and the various committees. The aims of the society are chiefly educational, the purpose being to create a powerful public opinion which shall sustain our Government in its leadership for international peace through justice. The policy is to work through existing organizations as far as possible, such as the churches, schools, clubs, societies, etc.

Sixty-seven Buffalo churches are now affiliated with the society, each having appointed an effective peace committee. Under the sanction of the late Bishop Colton, the Roman Catholic churches have co-operated generously.

School peace leagues have been formed in thirty-two of the public and parochial schools, and for three months' peace teachings have been emphasized in history, literature, music, poetry, and debate, under the direction of the school department, as a special recognition of the one hundred years of peace.

The society has co-operated with the State and City Federation of Women's Clubs, representing three hundred thousand women. The city federation is affiliated, and nearly every one of the fifty-six clubs have had special peace days, and most of them have had peace speakers. The members of all clubs have pledged themselves to work in their families and communities for this great cause.

The Young Men's Christian Association conducted a course for the study of war and peace with special reference to the present war, in which twelve sessions were held, with able speakers from Buffalo and elsewhere. One of the significant results of this course was the affiliation of the Buffalo Society of Socialists with the society.

In the city more than two hundred fifty addresses have been given and about one hundred thirty thousand pamphlets and leaflets distributed among the residents of Buffalo and people attending conventions there. Of these leaflets ninety-four thousand were printed by the society in co-operation with other organizations.

One of the most important and fruitful efforts has been the co-operation with the Citizens' Committee for the Commemoration of the One Hundred Years of Peace, of which Mr. Fenton M. Parke was the able and statesmanlike chairman. The committee's noteworthy celebration in churches and schools, February 14 and 17, created widespread interest. Thirty-five thousand special peace-day leaflets were distributed throughout the Sunday schools on Sunday, May 16. The celebration culminated on May 18, when a most successful pageant of peace was given by the Buffalo public schools as part of their regular Peace Day exercises, one thousand children of the eighth and ninth grades taking part. The picturesqueness of the pageant itself, which was written especially for the Buffalo schools by one of its leading teachers, Miss Laura Dunbar Haggerty, the splendidly rendered choruses, striking tableaux and excellent management, marked an epoch in the city's educational work.